

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are pending in the application. In the Final Office Action of August 4, 2004, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.
- B.) Rejected claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moreton et al.* in view of *Ishihara*.
- C.) Rejected claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moreton et al.* and further in view of *Ishihara* and *Tabata et al.*

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections and addresses the rejections as follows:

A.) Rejection of claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph:

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended as per the Examiner's request to overcome the rejection.

Claims 5 and 6 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

B.) Rejection of claims 1 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moreton et al.* in view of *Ishihara*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended to clarify the positions of the various elements. Claim 2 has been amended to claim a stereo-camera recording/reproducing system.

Referring to Applicant's Figure 1 as an illustrative example, independent claims 1 and 2, each as amended, each claim a single solid-state image-sensing device 1 having a plurality of image capturing regions 1a and 1b, each image capture region simultaneously captures a different image on the single solid-state image-sensing device 1. A plurality of optical systems form a different image of a subject in each image-capturing region, each one of the optical systems corresponding to a different one of the image-capturing regions.

Each optical system has: an imaging-side reflection means 5a or 5b located in front of the corresponding image-capturing region 1a or 1b and directed in an obliquely outward direction; a subject-side reflection means 6a or 6b located outward from said imaging-side reflection means and directed in an obliquely inward direction; a lens 3a or 3b provided to be closer to said single

solid-state image-sensing device than said imaging-side reflection means; and a light-limiting means 4a or 4b provided in an optical path between said imaging-side reflection means and said corresponding image-capturing region, the light-limiting means preventing incidence of flux of ambient light other than from rays forming each image of said subject

A light-shielding means 7 is provided normal to the single solid-state image-sensing device 1 and at least between the single solid-state image-sensing device and the reflection means so as to prevent optical cross talk between the optical systems. The optical systems are used to form, in the corresponding image-capturing regions 1a and 1b, separate and different images of said subject which are captured from different viewpoints having a distance therebetween.

This is clearly unlike *Moreton* in view of *Ishihara*, which fails to disclose or even suggest Applicant's claimed light-shielding means and lenses. As acknowledged by the Examiner, *Moreton* fails to teach Applicant's claimed light-shielding means. Further, *Moreton* fails to teach lenses, which are associated with each image-capturing region of a single solid-state imaging device, that are disposed in locations as claimed in claims 1 and 2. Thus, *Moreton* alone fails to disclose or suggest claims 1 and 2.

Moreton in view of *Ishihara* still fails to disclose or suggest claims 1 and 2. Referring to *Ishihara* Figure 1, the Examiner argues that *Ishihara*'s pinhole 4 allegedly teaches Applicant's claimed light-shielding means. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Unlike Applicant's claimed light-shielding means, *Ishihara*'s pinhole does not prevent crosstalk between optical systems. Instead, *Ishihara*'s pinhole is merely a diaphragm. Further, unlike Applicant's claimed light-shielding means, *Ishihara*'s pinhole 4 is not positioned normal to *Ishihara*'s imaging device, but is instead parallel to the imaging device.

Therefore, *Moreton* in view of *Ishihara* still fails to disclose or suggest claims 1 and 2.

Claims 5 and 6 depend directly or indirectly from claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

C.) Rejection of claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Moreton et al.* and further in view of *Ishihara* and *Tabata et al.*:

Applicant respectfully disagrees with the rejection.

Applicant's claims 1 and 2 are allowable over *Moreton* in view of *Ishihara* as discussed above. *Tabata* still fails to disclose or suggest Applicant's claimed light-shielding means. Nowhere does *Tabata* even discuss light-shielding means. Therefore, *Moreton* in view of *Ishihara* and *Tabata* still fails to disclose or suggest claims 1 and 2.

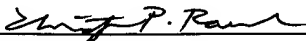
Claim 6 depends directly or indirectly from claim 1 and is therefore allowable for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Applicant respectfully submits the rejection has been overcome and requests that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 1, 2, 5 and 6 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

 (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch
SONNENSCHNEIN, NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Telephone 312/876-2606
Customer #26263
Attorneys for Applicant(s)



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on November 4, 2004.

Christopher P. Rauch (Reg. No. 45,034)
Christopher P. Rauch

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